



In prideful scorn I watched the farmer stride  
With step uncouth o'er road and mossy lane;  
How could I help but distantly deride  
The churlish, calloused, coarse-clad country swain?

Upon his lips a mumbled ballad stirred  
The evening air with dull cacophony;  
In cold contempt, I shuddered as I heard,  
And held myself no kin to such as he.

But as he leaped the stile and gained the field  
Where star-faced blossoms twinkled through the hay,  
His lumb'ring footfalls oftentimes would yield,  
To spare the flowers that bloomed along the way.

And while I gazed, my spirit swelled apace;  
With the crude swain I owned the human tie;  
The tenderest impulse of a noble race  
Had proved the boor a finer man than I!

[image]

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